

Minutes of General Meeting Held Thursday 11th January 2024. **7.30pm. Woodland Village Hall**

Present.

Cllr R Teasdale (Chair). Cllr A Rutter. Cllr N L Peckett.

Cllr P Brydon. Cllr J Gardner. Cllr M Timms. Cllr Deborah Snowdon,

Cllr Coslett (DCC Evenwood and Barony),

Cllr Potts (DCC Evenwood and Barony)

1. Apologies.

None

2. Declaration of Interest.

3.1 No Declaration of interest were made

3.2 The clerk reminded members that the declaration of interest forms must be kept up to date as and when things change.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held 09/11/2023 were read.

3.2 Cllr Gardner requested that the recording of the meeting should be reviewed and amendments made if required. The amended minutes would be re presented at the next meeting

4. Matters Arising.

4.1 Cemetery, the clerk gave a verbal report of progress made, see below

4.2 Road signs, no change

4.3 Social media policy the clerk has done further research regarding the use of social media. Using the electoral roll, he discovered that less than 50% of the electorate are on Facebook, he was not able to undertake the same research into other social media platforms. A discussion took place regarding the use of social media by the council. It was decided that there would not be a parish council social media presence. It was also agreed that no Woodland Parish Council business would appear on any social media platform. The Parish council web site would be used to inform the electorate of decisions and plans.

4.4 Cllr Gardner requested clarification regarding the process for producing minutes in draft form and publishing them before being agreed by the council. The clerk described the process.

5. Public Participation period.

5.1 One member of the public was present at the meeting

5.2 No request to speak had been received from the public

6. Finance and accounts

6.1 Bank Balance £10406.69

Income £840 payment of rent from Woodland Community Group for storage in the

Chapel

Outgoing £50 Prizes for Farmer Christmas (section 137 expenditure)
£32 Rent for The village hall

6.2 Budget review and precept request. The clerk presented a report that he had produced regarding the 2024/25 budget and precept request. Options were presented. A discussion took place regarding each of the options. Option 2 was agreed with the addition of a £92 spend on rent in the village hall for meetings and £150 to be made available for community event support.

The members agreed that cuts would be made to reduce the burden on the electorate and that solutions would be sought to maintain services.

It was agreed that a precept of £3400 would be requested. This represents a Band D council tax rate of £43.21 an increase of 14.11%. It was agreed that this was preferable to the standstill option of a 90.31% increase.

7. Cemetery.

7.1 The Clerk and Chair held a meeting with DCC Grounds maintenance in the cemetery. The spoil heaps in the cemetery are to be cleared in the spring.

7.2 A section of the wall was reported as dangerous. This has been repaired

8. Cemetery Chapel.

8.1 The clerk reported that the Chapel is in need of some remedial repairs. He suggested that it would be a good idea to repair and develop the building so that it had more community use. Some years ago it was agreed that it could be developed into a new Gaunless Valley Visitors center to replace the old one that was in The Slack. Members agreed that the Clerk could request a survey to be undertaken to establish what was needed and progress with looking for funding grants. The cost will be £200 this was agreed. The Gaunless Valley Heritage trust has been approached and they agreed to support the initiative.

9. Playground.

9.1 The clerk reported that he had engaged with a playground building company and asked them to produce proposals based on the two options presented at the last meeting. No proposals had been received so the clerk agreed to continue with the search. The county councilors offered to provide some funding from their area budget 24/25 to aid in the grant funding bid. TAP has been approached and an expression of interest lodged for TAP funding 24/25.

The mobilus was in need of repair at a cost of £500. In light of the project to replace the Playground equipment it was decided to remove it.

10. Planning (New)

10.1 No new planning applications had been received

11. Correspondence & I.T.

11.1 A report had been made by a member of the public that a footpath had been blocked by a fence, this was referred to DCC

11.2 The clerk had reported a street light failure outside West view to DCC and it had been repaired

11.3 an alleged breach of conduct complaint had been received by the clerk from DCC and details of the last meeting had been requested.

During the discussion Cllr Gardner stated that she believed that Parish council meetings were confidential and accused the clerk of a breach of trust and questioned his integrity. Cllr Rutter said that he felt that Cllr Gardner was being unfair as the Clerk was being professional and doing a good job.

Note: Parish council meetings are open to the public and with the exception of discussions of a personal nature, are not confidential.

12. Any Other Business.

12.1 No other business had been declared prior to the meeting

12.2 A report had been received from the Woodland Community Group regarding the Farmer Christmas event and its finances. Cllr Gardner stated that she did not agree that the report should be read. The Parish council and Local councilors had given grants to the event. The chair instructed the clerk to read the report.

13. Date and time of the Next Meeting

Thursday 14th of March 2024. 7.30 pm.
Woodland Village Hall

This is a true and accurate minute of the meeting as agreed by the council.

DATE

SIGNED